

Interscholastic League championships is a credit to your coaching abilities and a testament to you as a motivator and role model. Your record of winning 88 percent of all your games is a mark that any coach at any level would love to emulate.

That six of your former players—Bryan Berard, Brian Boucher, Garth Snow, Mathieu Schneider, Keith Carney and Jeff Jillson—have skated this season in the NHL is a tribute to you and your program. All these players are outstanding individuals who obviously received great training.

On behalf of the NHL, please accept my best wishes on this most impressive accomplishment. I look forward to learning about what I am certain will be even more milestones ahead for you and the Mount St. Charles Academy program.

Sincerely,

GARY B. BETTMAN,
Commissioner.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 22, 2002.

Coach BILL BELISLE,
Mount St. Charles Academy, Logee Street,
Woonsocket, RI.

DEAR COACH BELISLE: Please accept my very best wishes on another amazing milestone in your hockey coaching career at Mount St. Charles Academy.

When Congress returns to session tomorrow after our annual winter recess, I will make certain that the rest of the nation is also aware of your latest accomplishment. The *Congressional Record* will reflect the fact that on January 5, 2002, you earned your 696th career victory. This win by a score of 6-2 over Toll Gate High School at Thayer Arena in Warwick set a new national high school hockey record for all-time career coaching victories.

It is even more incredible that you established this record in your 27th season at Mount. The old record, held by Ed Burns at Arlington High School in Massachusetts, was set over a 49-year career.

It is certainly impressive that you have led the Mounties to 24 consecutive state championships and that you have won 88 percent of all the games you have coached. But even more impressive to me is the caliber of first-class individuals that have graduated from the Mount St. Charles' program.

Dozens and dozens of your players have earned full-tuition college scholarships to major academic institutions. While many have gone on to play for the United States in the Olympic Games, or to play professionally in the National Hockey League and in Europe, even more have experienced successful careers off the ice. Their journey through adult life has been made smoother because of the great discipline and work ethic you have taught them at an early age. The "Mount Style" that you are so proud to instill in them has served these young men well in their careers well beyond their hockey-playing days.

Please accept my wishes for many more victories both on and off the ice. I also wish to extend congratulations to your wife Yvette, who has been your partner through this whole Mount Dynasty; your son David, who also doubles as your highly successful assistant coach; and the rest of the Belisle family. Congratulations again!

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. KENNEDY,
Member of Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN DOWDELL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute to New York City firefighter Kevin Dowdell who passed away on September 11, 2001. Kevin died tragically while carrying out the very acts of selflessness and bravery that were the hallmark of his life. As his family mourns this loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Kevin and pay tribute to him for his many contributions to his country.

As a distinguished firefighter in the New York City Fire Department, Kevin dedicated his life to serving and protecting others, and embodied the spirit of courage and bravery that has sustained this country during these times of tragedy and mourning. Not only was Kevin one of New York's bravest, but he was also one of this country's bravest. It is because of men like Kevin Dowdell that all of us, as Americans, can hold our heads high and take comfort in the fact that we live in the greatest country on Earth, and among the most courageous and extraordinary people on Earth.

Kevin's mother, Gloria—a long-time resident of Colorado—remembers that Kevin had dreams of becoming a firefighter from the time he was four years old. After realizing that life-long dream, Kevin excelled as a firefighter, becoming an expert in difficult rescues and garnering high praise from both his colleagues and superiors alike. Not only was Kevin an exceptional firefighter, but he was, perhaps more importantly, an exceptional father, husband, brother and son. The selflessness that propelled him to a career as a firefighter was even more evident in his family life. He tirelessly gave his time, love and energy to each and every member of his family, taking them on tours through New York, playing in his son's band and organizing family vacations. He is survived by his loving wife RoseEllen and his two sons Patrick and James.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Kevin Dowdell, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that Kevin left with all of us. His life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring the attention of this body of Congress to his life. It is in times of great tragedy and hardship that true heroes emerge, and I am proud to say Kevin Dowdell is a hero not only to me, but to his family, his friends and to this country.

NATIVE SON OF SAN MATEO SHINES IN SUPER BOWL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the victory of the New England Patriots in last night's Super Bowl was not just an incredibly good football game—one of the closest and most exciting

games in Super Bowl history—but it was also a cause for celebration that spanned our nation from coast to coast. Today the City of San Mateo and Peninsulans join fans in New England in celebrating the Patriots' victory. It is a shared celebration because New England Quarterback Tom Brady first showed signs of football greatness as the quarterback for Junipero Serra High School in his hometown of San Mateo in my congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Brady was the youngest quarterback ever to lead a team to a Super Bowl victory and was also selected Most Valuable Player in the game. This was a fitting end to a truly magnificent season for Tom Brady. As a sixth round draft choice in the 2000 NFL draft, Tom started his second season as the back-up quarterback, whose goal for the 2001-2002 season was simply to become a better football player. Fate, however, had different plans as he was thrust into the starting role during the third game of the season. The newfound responsibility never fazed this calm young man. He accepted his new role and led the Patriots from a 0-2 start to the season to end with eleven wins in the regular season and a trip to the playoffs.

During the playoffs, Tom faced and conquered a wide variety of adversities, from snowballs to ankle sprains, he never wavered and refused to back down as he lead his team to the Super Bowl. Entering the game as heavy underdogs, Tom Brady played the greatest game of his young career in the same way he played throughout the regular season—calm, cool, and under control. After three quarters the Patriots lead 17-3, but then the Rams made a comeback and Tom Brady found himself on his own 17 yard line, facing the daunting task of moving the ball sixty yards with 90 seconds left in the game, and his team with no time outs remaining.

Mr. Speaker, many thought he should run out the clock and move the game into overtime. Brady, a true competitor, walked onto the field to begin a drive to win in the remaining 90 seconds. As he said, "I was going out to win the game." And that is exactly what he did, as he threw pass after pass to march his team into field range and set up his kicker to win the game. Adam Vinatieri's kick sailed through the uprights just as time expired, and the Patriots were champions. A roar not only erupted from the stadium in New Orleans, but a similar outburst erupted from the house on Portola Drive in San Mateo, where friends and family of the Brady family had gathered to watch the game.

Mr. Speaker, from his days of flag football on Portola Drive in San Mateo, to the fields at Serra High, to the University of Michigan, to the National Football League and being named Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXXVI, Tom Brady always played with confidence and charisma and found success at every level. It is obvious from watching Tom Brady play that he truly loves the game of football. He always smiles, and his enthusiasm and confidence is infectious to his team. As one of his wide receivers said, "You can't say enough about the kid. He has a tremendous amount of confidence, and it rubs off on everyone else."

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tom Brady on an incredible game and wishing him continued success. All of us from San Mateo and the Peninsula are proud of our native son.